

1 LAFAYETTE & KUMAGAI LLP  
2 GARY T. LAFAYETTE (State Bar No. 88666)  
3 SUSAN T. KUMAGAI (State Bar No. 127667)  
4 GLEN TURNER (State Bar No. 212417)  
5 100 Spear Street, Suite 600  
6 San Francisco, California 94105  
7 Telephone: (415) 357-4600  
8 Facsimile: (415) 357-4605

9 STEPHEN L. SCHIRLE (State Bar No. 96085)  
10 DARREN P. ROACH (State Bar No. 159998)  
11 77 Beale Street, B30A  
12 P.O. Box 7442  
13 San Francisco, California 94105  
14 Telephone: (415) 973-6345  
15 Facsimile: (415) 973-5520

16 Attorneys for Defendant  
17 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM A. SMITH AND JOSEPH E.  
LEMUS,

Case No. C07-02126 JSW

Plaintiffs,

vs.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC  
COMPANY,

**DEFENDANT PACIFIC GAS AND  
ELECTRIC COMPANY'S ANSWER TO  
PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED  
COMPLAINT**

Defendant.

Defendant PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (“Defendant” or “PG&E”) hereby answers the First Amended Complaint for Damages (“Complaint”) filed by Plaintiffs William A. Smith (“Smith”) and Jose E. Lemus (“Lemus”) (collectively referred to as “Plaintiffs”), as follows:

1. Answering paragraph 1 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that Plaintiffs’ action herein is based on alleged discrimination, and that PG&E hired Smith as an engineer in or about 1990. Except as so expressly admitted, Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief as

1 to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies them.  
2 Defendant specifically denies that Smith was demoted, and that he was “replaced” in his prior  
3 position.

4       2. Answering paragraph 2 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that Lemus was hired  
5 by PG&E in or about 1988, that he filed an EEOC charge in October 2005, and that he was not  
6 selected for two Team Lead positions in 2005 and for a Senior Project Manager's position in  
7 2006. Except as so expressly admitted, Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief as  
8 to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies them.  
9 Defendant specifically denies that less qualified candidates were selected for the positions Lemus  
0 sought.

1                   3. Answering paragraph 3 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
2 allegations contained therein.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4           4. Answering paragraph 4 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that Plaintiffs' claims  
5 arise under federal law and that Lemus' retaliation claim arises under state law.

6       5.     Answering paragraph 5 of the Complaint, defendant admits the material  
7 allegations contained therein.

## PARTIES

19       6.     Answering paragraph 6 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
20 allegations contained therein, except with regard to any and all allegations relating to Smith's  
21 alleged disability for which Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth  
22 of those allegations and, on that basis, denies them.

23       7. Answering paragraph 7 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
24 allegations contained therein.

25       8.     Answering paragraph 8 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
26 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
27 denies them.

28 9. Answering paragraph 9 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information

1 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 2 denies them.

3 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

4 10. Answering paragraph 10 of the Complaint, Defendant admits Smith is an engineer  
 5 employed by PG&E and over the age of 40. Except as so expressly admitted, defendant denies  
 6 the material allegations contained therein.

7 11. Answering paragraph 11 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 8 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 9 denies them.

10 12. Answering paragraph 12 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 11 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 12 denies them.

13 13. Answering paragraph 13 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 14 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 15 denies them. Defendant specifically denies that Smith was a “manager.”

16 14. Answering paragraph 14 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that in or about  
 17 March 2005, employees were notified that ITI and ITUSS were going to be consolidated (“2005  
 18 reorganization”).

19 15. Answering paragraph 15 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that one of the  
 20 results of the consolidation of the ITI and ITUSS departments in 2005 was a reduction in force.

21 16. Answering paragraph 16 of the Complaint, Defendant submits the allegations  
 22 contained therein are vague and ambiguous and overbroad, therefore, Defendant asserts it lacks  
 23 sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein  
 24 and, on that basis, denies them.

25 17. Answering paragraph 17 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 26 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 27 denies them. Defendant specifically denies any company policy was violated in the selection  
 28 process during the 2005 reorganization.

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1       18. Answering paragraph 18 of the Complaint, Defendant asserts the allegations are  
 2 vague and ambiguous and, therefore, Defendant is unable to admit or deny them. However,  
 3 Defendant admits Smith was not interviewed for a manager's position during the 2005  
 4 reorganization.

5       19. Answering paragraph 19 of the Complaint, Defendant admits that Smith was told  
 6 he was not selected for a manager's position during the 2005 reorganization, but denies that  
 7 Smith was told he was demoted. Except as so expressly admitted and denied, Defendant lacks  
 8 sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein  
 9 and, on that basis, denies them.

10      20. Answering paragraph 20 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 11 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 12 denies them. Defendant specifically denies that all managers selected were younger than Smith.

13      21. Answering paragraph 21 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
 14 allegations contained therein.

15      22. Answering paragraph 22 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 16 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 17 denies them.

18      23. Answering paragraph 23 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 19 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 20 denies them.

21      24. Answering paragraph 24 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
 22 allegations contained therein.

23      25. Answering paragraph 25 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
 24 allegations contained therein.

25      26. Answering paragraph 26 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
 26 allegations contained therein.

27      27. Answering paragraph 27 of the Complaint, Defendant admits Lemus is Hispanic  
 28 and was hired in or about 1988. Except as so expressly admitted, Defendant lacks sufficient

1 information to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on  
 2 that basis, denies them. Defendant specifically denies that PG&E promised Lemus career  
 3 advancement and promotion.

4       28. Answering paragraph 28 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
 5 allegations contained therein.

6       29. Answering paragraph 29 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 7 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 8 denies them.

9       30. Answering paragraph 30 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 10 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 11 denies them.

12       31. Answering paragraph 31 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 13 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 14 denies them.

15       32. Answering paragraph 32 of the Complaint, Defendant admits Lemus was not  
 16 promoted to a Team Lead position in March 2005 and that a white male was selected. To the  
 17 extent the remaining allegations are material, they are vague and ambiguous and, therefore,  
 18 Defendant is unable to admit or deny them.

19       33. Answering paragraph 33 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
 20 allegations contained therein.

21       34. Answering paragraph 34 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 22 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 23 denies them.

24       35. Answering paragraph 35 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 25 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 26 denies them.

27       36. Answering paragraph 36 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material  
 28 allegations contained therein.

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1       37. Answering paragraph 37 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 2 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 3 denies them.

4       38. Answering paragraph 38 of the Complaint, Defendant admits Lemus applied for a  
 5 Senior Project Manager position in August 2006. Except as so expressly admitted, defendant  
 6 lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained  
 7 therein and, on that basis, denies them.

8       39. Answering paragraph 39 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks information sufficient  
 9 to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein, and on that basis, denies them.

10      40. Answering paragraph 40 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 11 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 12 denies them.

13      41. Answering paragraph 41 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks information sufficient  
 14 to form a basis for belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein, and on that basis,  
 15 denies them.

16      42. Answering paragraph 42 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks information sufficient  
 17 to form a basis for belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein, and on that basis,  
 18 denies them.

19      43. Answering paragraph 43 of the Complaint, Defendant admits Lemus was not  
 20 selected. Except as so expressly admitted, Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief  
 21 as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies them.  
 22 Defendant specifically denies that the successful candidate was not qualified for the position.

23      44. Answering paragraph 44 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks sufficient information  
 24 to form a belief as to the truth of the material allegations contained therein and, on that basis,  
 25 denies them. Defendant specifically denies any change in Lemus' performance rating was the  
 26 result of an alleged internal complaint by Lemus.

27      45. Answering paragraph 45 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
 28 allegations contained therein and specifically denies that PG&E retaliated against Lemus.

46. Answering paragraph 46 of the Complaint, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form the basis of a belief in the truth of the allegations therein, and on that basis denies them.

47. Answering paragraph 47 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material allegations contained therein.

48. Answering paragraph 48 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material allegations contained therein.

49. Answering paragraph 49 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material allegations contained therein.

50. Answering paragraph 50 of the Complaint, Defendant admits the material allegations contained therein.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF – AGE DISCRIMINATION

51. Answering paragraph 51 of the Complaint, Defendant incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1-50 as if fully re-stated.

52. Answering paragraph 52 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material allegations contained therein.

## SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF – DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

53. Answering paragraph 53 of the Complaint, Defendant incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1-52 as if fully restated.

54. Answering paragraph 54 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material allegations contained therein.

### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF – RETALIATION DISCRIMINATION

55. Answering paragraph 55 of the Complaint, Defendant incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1-54 as if fully restated.

56. Answering paragraph 56 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material allegations contained therein.

#### FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF – NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION

57. Answering paragraph 57 of the Complaint, Defendant incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1-56 as if fully restated.

58. Answering paragraph 58 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material allegations contained therein.

## FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF – RETALIATION DISCRIMINATION

59. Answering paragraph 59 of the Complaint, Defendant incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1-58 as if fully restated.

60. Answering paragraph 60 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material allegations contained therein.

## DAMAGES

9       61. Answering paragraph 61 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
10 allegations contained therein and specifically denies that Plaintiffs, and each of them, were  
11 injured in the manner alleged, or any manner whatsoever, as a result of conduct by Defendant.

## PUNITIVE DAMAGES

13        62. Answering paragraph 62 of the Complaint, Defendant denies the material  
14 allegations contained therein.

## **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16       63.     As a first separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiffs fail to  
17     allege facts sufficient to constitute a claim for relief against Defendant.

## **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

19 64. As a second separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiffs  
20 failed to exhaust appropriate administrative remedies with the California Department of Fair  
21 Employment and Housing and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

## **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 65. As a third separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that this action  
24 cannot be maintained because statutory prerequisites have not been fulfilled.

## **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

26 66. As a fourth separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that any damages  
27 sustained by Plaintiffs were either wholly or in part negligently caused by Plaintiffs' own actions,  
28 inactions, or delay in acting, and said negligence comparatively reduces the percentage of

1 negligence, if any, by Defendant.

2 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

3 67. As a fifth separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that the complained-  
4 of actions were taken with just cause and were not in violation of any federal or state statute.

5 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6 68. As a sixth separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that any emotional  
7 distress or mental anguish allegedly suffered is barred by the exclusive remedy provided by  
8 Labor Code §3600 *et seq.* and cannot be compensated for in this present action.

9 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10 69. As a seventh, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that claims for  
11 mental and/or emotional distress are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the California  
12 Workers' Compensation Appeals Board (Labor Code § 3200, *et seq.*).

13 **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14 70. As an eighth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that it had no  
15 knowledge of any alleged discrimination and/or retaliation.

16 **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17 71. As a ninth separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that it did not ratify  
18 and/or approve any wrongful conduct.

19 **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 72. As a tenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiff's  
21 Complaint is barred by statutes of limitation including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-  
22 5(e)(1), Cal. Gov. Code § 12960(d), and Cal. Gov. Code § 12965(b).

23 **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 73. As an eleventh, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that the  
25 Complaint fails to state facts sufficient to justify an award of punitive damages and fails to state  
26 sufficient and specific facts to support the underlying allegations of malice and oppression.

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## **TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

74. As a twelfth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that it is entitled to recover reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, from Plaintiff, and that Plaintiff's Complaint is frivolous and was brought and maintained in bad faith and without reasonable cause, is totally and completely without merit, and was brought for the sole purpose of harassing Defendant.

## **THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

75. As a thirteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that the alleged damages sustained by Plaintiffs were caused by persons, firms, corporations, entities or organizations other than Defendant, and by reason thereof, Defendant is not liable to Plaintiffs for any alleged injuries, losses or damages.

**FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

76. As a fourteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that the alleged adverse employment actions of which Plaintiffs complain were based on one or more legitimate, nondiscriminatory, non-pretextual reasons.

## **FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

77. As a fifteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that its actions were taken for good cause and legitimate business reasons.

## SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

78. As a sixteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that it would have acted in the manner complained of by the Plaintiffs regardless of Plaintiffs' age, alleged disability, national origin and/or alleged protected acts.

## **SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

79. As a seventeenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that to the extent Plaintiffs engaged in any conduct that could be construed as protected activity, they did so in bad faith and with no good faith belief in the truth thereof.

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## **EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

80. As an eighteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts it had no knowledge of plaintiffs' protected acts at the time of making employment decisions which are the subject of this lawsuit.

## NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

81. As a nineteenth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiffs failed to mitigate their damages, if any, and said failure to mitigate bars Plaintiffs from recovery in this action.

## **TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

82. As a twentieth, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that an award of punitive damages is unconstitutional under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

## **TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

83. As a twenty-first, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiffs failed to use ordinary care and diligence in the performance of their duties, thus their claims are barred by Labor Code § 2854.

**TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

84. As a twenty-second, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Defendant's conduct alleged in the complaint, if and to the extent it occurred, was privileged and justified and done with a good faith belief it was correct and no action may be taken against Defendant on account of such conduct.

## **TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

85. As a twenty-third, separate and affirmative defense, Defendant asserts that Plaintiffs acted with unclean hands.

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1 WHEREFORE, Defendant prays:

2 1. The Plaintiffs take nothing by the Complaint;

3 2. That the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice;

4 3. That Defendant recover its costs of suit herein, including its reasonable attorneys'

5 fees; and

6 4. The Court grant such other further relief as it may deem appropriate.

7

8 DATED: September 6, 2007

LAFAYETTE & KUMAGAI LLP

9 /s/ Glen Turner

10 GLEN TURNER

11 Attorneys for Defendant

12 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

13 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

14 I certify that a copy of this document was served electronically on September 6, 2007, on  
15 counsel of record in compliance with Federal Rule 5, Local Rule 5.6 and General Order 45, by  
16 use of the Court's ECF system.

17 /s/Glen Turner

18 GLEN TURNER

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